**To end all wars?**

This INSPIRE project plan is for a 30-minute introduction to World War I Remembrance. It can be used as an assembly or at the beginning of a poppy-making workshop. You could use it during Remembrance or, better yet, for thinking about peacemaking in your school. It also contains a challenge: what will you do to make peace in the next 100 years?

The content can be used with ages 9 and above. The follow-up poppy-making activity is for all ages.

**Aims:**

* to explore the history of war from World War I to the present day
* to inspire action to prevent war and build peace
* (extension) to make a poppy as a symbol of Remembrance for peace.

| **Minutes** | **Activity** | | **Slides** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Opening** | **As students enter, display the [first animated slide]**  **depicting images of World War I**. We suggest ‘Brothers in Arms’ by Dire Straits as accompanying music. | |  |
| **0–1** | **Show the next slide, ‘The war to end all wars’.**  To which war is this referring? Elicit the idea that this was the 1914-18 war, sometimes called the Great War, later called World War I or the First World War. | |  |
| **1–4** | **Show the second slide, ‘World War I’ [SLIDE].**  Discuss what students already know. Where was it? How did it start? What happened? Who was fighting? What was it like? How many people were killed? Don’t try to give the whole history. | |  |
| **4–5** | **What does the red poppy mean? [SLIDE]**  It became the symbol of those who died in World War I because the disturbed earth on Europe’s battlefields provided ideal conditions for the flower to grow. It is used today to remember Britain’s casualties in war, as well as some other countries. The white poppy is used to remember people of all countries, soldiers and civilians. | |  |
| **5–10** | **Discuss: Who died in WWI? [SLIDE]**  Let’s get a sense of how many people we’re talking about.  Using a metre ruler or tape measure, show an area of one square metre. Ask a volunteer to stand in it and hold a poppy. Ask them how many other people could fit in it? See how many volunteers holding poppies can fit. You could give out sheets of flip chart or metre rulers for groups to cooperate to see how many they can fit. It will probably be no more than five. This will give a sense of scale in what follows… | | You will also need some poppies and metre rulers. |
| **10–11** | **Show the slide of the Tower of London.**  In 2014 the moat of the Tower of London was filled with 888,246 ceramic poppies representing military war dead from Britain and its colonies. But what other parts of London would be covered with poppies if we included international deaths, civilian and military? The map uses a rate of 50 poppies per square metre (about ten times more than the people you could fit) or 500,000 per hectare, each poppy representing one war death.  Read more in [The Guardian](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/06/-sp-what-would-the-tower-of-london-poppy-exhibition-look-like-if-it-included-global-not-just-uk-war-dead) | |  |
| **11–15** | **Poppies across London [7 SLIDES]**  Show slides depicting the poppies spreading across London, to represent the many lives lost during WWI. Remind students that every square metre represents 50 people.   * 888,246 military deaths in the British Armed Forces * 4,170,720 Entente Powers (British allied) military deaths * 3,366,650 Germany & Central Powers military deaths * 3,301,386 other Entente Powers civilian deaths from military violence * 2,975,000 German and Central Powers civilian deaths from military violence * 2,520,000 Entente Powers civilian deaths from hunger and disease * 2,330,000 German & Central Powers civilian deaths from hunger and disease   (Figures from WWI data book)  Elicit the idea that civilians die in war, sometimes in greater numbers than soldiers. | |  |
| **15–16** | **A *world* war [SLIDE]**  The European powers mobilised their empires to fight for them. For example, [74,187 Indian soldiers](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-33317368) died during the war.  [From Africa](https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/war_losses_africa), over 250,000 soldiers and carriers, as well as approximately 750,000 civilians, died. | |  |
| **16–17** | **Another way to think about it [SLIDE of cemetery and clock]**  At least 17 million people died. Ask all students to count aloud with the seconds on the clock. After ten seconds tell them to stop. Tell children that if they were to count like that to 17 million it would take them 197 days. | |  |
| **17–18** | **Was World War I the war to end all wars? [SLIDE]**  Discuss this. How do we know it wasn’t? | |  |
| **18–19** | **Britain’s wars since WWI [Animated slide]**  The answer is no. The United Kingdom has not known a single year without war or armed conflict since WWI ended. Only China has fought more wars than Britain in the last century.  Examples include:   * World War I, 1914–1918 * The Russian Civil War, 1917–1922 * The Irish War of Independence, 1919–1921 * The Irish Civil War, 1922–1923 * Bombing of Mesopotamia, 1923 * Arab revolt against British rule 1936–1939 * World War II, 1939–1945 * Greek Civil War, 1946–1947 * The Korean War, 1950–1953 * The Kenya Emergency, 1952–1960 * The Suez War, 1956 | * The Malayan Emergency, 1948–1960 * The Aden Emergency, 1963–1967 * ‘The Troubles’ in Northern Ireland, 1968–1998 * The Falklands War, 1982 * The Gulf War in Iraq, 1990–1991 * The Bosnian War, 1992–1995 * Bombing Iraq, 1998 * The Kosovo War, 1998–1999 * The global war on terrorism, 2001–2013 * Bombing in Libya, 2011 * The War in Afghanistan, 2001–2014 * The Iraq War and Insurgency, 2003–2011 * Bombing in Syria, 2015-2018   Reference: http://www.war-memorial.net/wars\_stats.asp?q=3 |  |
| **19–20** | **What about the rest of the world?**  How many wars have there been since WWI? Take some guesses.   * A good guess is 264. The total number of deaths caused by war during the 20th Century has been estimated at 187 million and is probably higher. | |  |
| **20–21** | **What about today? [SLIDE]**  How many wars are happening today in 2018?   * Four major ones (more than 10,000 deaths in the last year). * 14 other conflicts that have killed more than 1,000 people so far. | |  |
| **21–24** | **What are some of the effects of war?**  Discuss and elicit some of these ideas:   * People flee (refugees). Some are in Britain, most end up in other countries. * People die – just soldiers or other people too? * People aren’t able to live peaceful lives. * People are prevented from living out their rights –education, rest and play. * Places destroyed – homes, schools, hospitals etc. * People are injured and traumatised. | |  |
| **24–25** | **Saving lives [SLIDE]**  But people have worked for peace too…  Saving thousands of lives in war:   * the Friends Ambulance Unit was a Quaker organisation saving lives on both sides in WWI * the White Helmets are volunteers saving lives in cities bombarded in Syria today. | |  |
| **25–29** | **Waging peace [SLIDE]**  Many people work for peace against the odds – here are four examples.  **Emma González** is, at 18, a leader in the Fight for Our Lives campaign in the USA. After she survived the mass shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida in February 2018, she began campaigning for tighter gun control, angry at the failure of her nation’s adults to fix things. Follow her @Emma4Change.  **Muhammad Ali** was the heavyweight boxing champion of the world. He refused to fight in the US Army in Vietnam, helping spearhead the massive peace movement in the 1960s. He helped thousands of people with humanitarian work and travelled to Iraq in 1990 to negotiate the release of 15 hostages.  **Wangari Maathai** risked her life to stand up to the former oppressive regime in Kenya. Her creative action challenged political oppression, inspiring democratic activists and women the world over.  **Rosa Emilia Salamanca** is building the path to peace in Colombia by defending women’s rights. As part of the women’s movement in Colombia, she has worked on the peace process between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. In 2016, a peace deal was reached in Colombia after 52 years of war. It’s a fragile peace, but a rate of 3,000 casualties per year has gone down to fewer than 100.  Making peace isn’t just about individuals either; it takes movements working together. | |  |
| **29–30** | **What about 2018–2118? [SLIDE]**  Ask: Will there be more wars, or more peace? What will you do about it? How will you make peace?  Eleanor Roosevelt said: "It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it."  That’s what INSPIRE is all about. Whether you make peace with your next door neighbour or another country, peace is something we can all work for. | |  |
|  | **Follow up with a poppy-making workshop (details below) or check out INSPIRE and explore what your school community can do: www.oasisinspire.org/schools.** | |  |

# Classroom activity: Poppy making

Discuss whether your poppies are to remember only British and British Empire soldiers killed (red poppies), all those killed in war (white poppies), or some kind of combination. As we create and display our poppies in remembrance of past victims, we can also think about how we can build a more peaceful future together.



Poppies can be sewn, knitted, crocheted, or felted. They could be plain or decorated, with or without a leaf. They needn’t be pure white; each will be unique, as is each person.

Once you’ve made them, share them with @oasisinspire on Twitter or email them to [peaceedu@quaker.org.uk](mailto:peaceedu@quaker.org.uk).

## **A simple fabric or felt poppy**

If you want your poppy to be worn, attach a brooch-pin (or safety pin) slightly above the centre of the poppy (to stop it flopping down).

**Materials:**

* White felt or fabric (younger children may find felt or non-fraying fabric)
* Button

**Optional**

* Embroidery thread/wool/ribbons/lace/beads for the centre
* Iron-on fabric interfacing if using flimsy or fraying fabric
* Green felt or fabric to make leaf

**Instructions**

1. Cut out two pairs of poppies using the pattern on the next page. (You can also experiment with different shapes – test them with paper cut-outs.)
2. Fold one pair of petals in half length-wise and stitch together along the dotted lines. Open out.
3. Repeat with the other pair of petals.
4. Position the pairs of petals at right-angles to each other and pin in place. If you are using a fabric/tape backing, pin this at the same time.
5. Stitch together in the centre with white thread.
6. Stitch a button through both sets of petals (and backing tape) to hide your stitches.

**Options**:

Overstitch the edges of the petals, if using a fraying fabric.

Decorate the centre or petals with embroidery etc.

If you are using thin fabric, a row of gathering about a quarter of the way up each petal may work better than a pleat to give body to the petals. If you want to add a leaf, cut one out of green cloth or felt.



For instructions on making lace or knitted poppies and other ideas, go to [@whitepoppies2018](https://www.facebook.com/whitepoppies2018/) on Facebook.

